

Open Government Partnership

Governance and Leadership Monthly Call Summary

6 May 2021 | 08:00 - 9:30 EDT

Attendees:

- Maria Baron, Directorio Legislativo
- Aidan Eyakuze, Twaweza
- Government of South Korea: Jihye Park
- Government of Italy: Marco Marrazza

Call Summary

I. Update on recent developments in El Salvador and potential Rapid Response case

Five magistrates from the Supreme Court and the Attorney General of El Salvador were removed from office over this past weekend by the newly elected National Assembly which is dominated by the party of the current president. This act was condemned as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of El Salvador, and other governments, civil society and international bodies [expressed their concerns](#). The OGP Support Unit (SU) and Maria met with local civil society this week, who also provided their concerns about this situation and also the deteriorating civic space in the country.

In light of these concerns, civil society representatives from El Salvador submitted a request for OGP's [Rapid Response Protocol](#) (RRP) on May 5. The letter of concern can be found [here](#). As per the RRP policy, the OGP SU has conducted an initial assessment and determined that it meets the eligibility criteria for a RRP case. The OGP SU has informed the filers of the request, as well as the government of El Salvador of this assessment, and invited the government to provide a formal response within five business days.

Next Steps:

- The OGP SU will develop a response strategy to address the situation of concern, as well as a timeline for its implementation. This strategy will be shared with the Steering Committee (SC) for information and comment, and the SC will have five working days to suggest new actions or improvements of the strategy and the proposed timeline.
- As outlined in the RRP, the SC may choose to develop a complementary statement to support and/or reinforce the Support Unit strategy.
- The OGP SU will maintain the SC updated on how this RRP case develops.

II. Updates on Call to Action uptake activities

This session included a readout on the co-chair trilateral meeting, which was successful in engaging Minister Jeon, Minister of the Interior and Safety of Korea, and

highlighting opportunities for his engagement in the domestic OGP process, including meeting with Korean MSF, and internationally as Chair of OGP.

Governance and Leadership Subcommittee (GL) members also shared updates on their activities for the uptake of the call-to-action, which included meeting with civil society from SC member governments about leveraging the call to action.

Next steps:

- Aidan and Maria will strategize with Civil Society Steering Committee (CS SC) members around how to incentivize all SC governments to use OGP for advancing COVID-19 recovery and renewal reforms during the June 10 ministerial call.
- Korea and Italy will write to the SC POCs to encourage securing ministerial participation for the meeting and confirming their own participation.
- The Support Unit (with CS SC support) will continue with targeted bilateral meetings with all SC ministers in the lead up to the meeting.

III. Leveraging upcoming global events and summits

The SU provided an update on activities to leverage upcoming global events and discussion of upcoming priorities, including the G7 Summit, the UN General Assembly Special Session, and President Moon's visit to Washington D.C. There has been good progress so far on linking domestic OGP POCs and foreign ministers working on the G7, and demonstrating uptake on issues like beneficial ownership transparency ahead of the Summit. This is also an opportunity to engage Japan in OGP processes, as it is the only G7 country not also currently an OGP member. A [blog](#) was published by OGP explaining these opportunities in more detail.

GL members emphasized the importance of not creating individual and siloed agendas for each event, but instead a cohesive set of talking points across all meetings. The call to action can provide a framework for this.

IV. OGW Opening Plenary Prep

As the last GL call before Open Gov Week (OGW) and the opening plenary, GL members were asked to review the proposed final agenda and flow of the event.

Next steps:

- GL members are requested to help share the invitation with their networks to ensure high participation. This would be a great opportunity to share with country MSFs.
- The OGP SU will share suggested messaging to ensure GL + SU remarks are coordinated.
- Korea and Italy to confirm their representatives for the OGW event, and if interpretation is needed.

V. Summit Update

The government of Korea continues to provide updates about the upcoming 2021 OGP Global Summit. A production firm has been hired, and agenda-building efforts will reflect a largely virtual Summit. The current plan includes core hours during the week with events run by OGP, and events outside of core hours to be largely hosted by partner organizations and governments. There will also be several OGP events held in the leadup to the Summit. A small group may be able to attend an in-person convening in Korea, but that will not be confirmed until closer to the event. Invitations to Heads of State and ministers will be sent soon, and a website dedicated to the Summit is expected to be launched in July.

VI. AOB: Update on the Leadership Program

The OGP SU is piloting a new program called the Leadership Program, focused on developing and supporting the leadership capacity of reformers in government. So far, 22 Leaders throughout all levels of government have signed onto the program. More details will be shared in due course.